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Feared Poles Might 'Eliminate' Him,

By CHARLES MAHER, Times Staff Writer

A radar expert who has admitted engaging in espionage testified Friday that he became apprehensive about dealing with Polish agents, fearing at one point that "they might try to eliminate me."

William Holden Bell, a former Hughes Aircraft Co. engineer, told a federal court jury in Los Angeles that he was afraid he had not "delivered" on his promises to the agents and "might have outlived my usefulness."

Bell, 61, is the government's chief witness at the espionage trial of Marian W. Zacharski, 30, a Polish na-

tional, accused of conspiring with Bell to pass sensitive U.S. defense information to Polish agents. Bell was indicted with Zacharski but avoided trial by pleading guilty to one count of espionage.

Under examination for a second day by Assistant U.S. Atty. Robert S. Brewer Jr., Bell told of a "Spooky" trip he took to Linz, Austria, in October of 1980. He said this was the third of four trips he made to Europe with Zacharski's complicity to deliver films of U.S. defense documents to agents of the Polish People's Republic. Zacharski was West Coast representative of the Polish American Machinery Co., and he and Bell lived at the same apartment complex in Playa del Rey.

Bell testified that he was met in Linz by a pale young agent he had seen on his two previous trips. Bell said they had coffee, then walked through a park above a river running through Linz. Among other things, he said, the agent "asked if I could get a video correlator which he said was part of the cruise missile (and) I said I wasn't familiar with the cruise missile but would look into it."

Bell said he was nervous. He said he had given the agent more film, as promised, and that it included photos of secret documents, but he was afraid the Poles wanted more than he had delivered.

While he and the agent were talking, he said, he spotted a man walking down the hill from them and the man "ducked his head in the bushes" on realizing he had been observed.

Bell said the agent told him not to worry. The agent said he was car-

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rying money and the man was there to protect him. Bell said that did not satisfy him, but "only increased my apprehension."

Bell testified that he was paid \$7,000 on this trip, as he had been on each of the first two and would be again on a later rendezvous with the same agent in Geneva. He said Polish agents had given him a code name, "Jackson," and told him to call a Warsaw phone number (20-51-77) if he happened to be in Europe and had any information to pass along.

Bell said he first concealed his relationship with Zacharski. Later the same day, he said, an FBI man told him "that a Polish worker in the U.N. had defected to the United States and had indicated that documents were being passed to Poland."

Bell said he "sat back, thought about it," and made a full confession. "I had considered earlier turning myself in," he said.

The trial will resume Tuesday. Bell is expected to be on the stand at least two more days.